



DRAFT



**Sullivan County State Delegation
Public Hearing of the
FY 08 Commissioners County Budget**

June 12, 2007 – 7 PM

Place: Claremont – 111 South Street
Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center
Scott Pope Room (Next to CCTV Community Business Room)
(Meeting taped and aired by CCTV and on DVD-R)

Delegates Present: Peter Franklin – *Chair*, Ray Gagnon – *Vice Chair*, Ellen Nielsen – *Clerk*, Brenda Ferland – *EFC Chair (arrived approximately 5-10 minutes later)*, John Cloutier – *Vice Chair*, Arthur Jillette, Matthew Houde, Suzanne Gottling – *EFC*, Larry Converse – *EFC*, Carla Skinder, Beverly Rodeschin, and James Phinizy.

Delegates Absent: Tom Donovan – *EFC*.

Commissioners Present:

Ethel Jarvis – *Chair*, Bennie Nelson – *Vice Chair* and Jeffrey Barrette – *Clerk*

Other County Officials & Staff:

Ed Gil de Rubio – *County Manager*, Cynthia Sweeney – *County Treasurer*, Captain John Milliken – *DOC*, Sullivan County Sheriff Michael Prozzo, Dodi Violette – *Account Clerk I* and Janice Bryk – *Payroll Clerk*.

Public Participants:

Aaron Aldridge – *Eagle Times staff reporter*, Matt – *Eagle Times*, Deb Mozden – *Women's Supportive Services*, Barbara Brill – *Community Alliance Family Services Executive Director* and Donald Clarke – *Claremont Citizen*.

7:00 The Public Hearing was brought to order.

Introductions were made to the three Sullivan County Board of Commissioners, the Delegation members, the County Manager and various other County employees and elected officials present.

A package of documents was made available to all Delegates, County Officials/staff, and public participants. The package included a PowerPoint presentation on the FY 08

County Budget and a document labeled *Property Tax Rates* of all 15 municipalities in the county, reflecting local valuations and rates from: municipal, local and state education and county, for years encompassing 1997 through 2006. It was also noted a spreadsheet was just replaced in the paper copy of the PowerPoint document.

Commissioner Jarvis announced Mr. Gil de Rubio would present the PowerPoint presentation. She noted, not reflected in the PowerPoint, was the Boards' recent decision to terminate the Genesis [Skilled Nursing Facility Management Support Agreement] contract. She noted Commissioners budgeted \$240,000 in FY 08 for the contract and would disburse it as follows: \$200,000 applied for additional staff and education/training with \$40,000 for the transition period from Genesis to their own Administrator.

Mr. Gil de Rubio began the PowerPoint presentation overview, which was then taken over by the Commissioners. The presentation included:

Goals of the Commissioners

- ☐ Continue To Provide High Quality of Service
- ☐ Foster Regional Leadership
- ☐ Establish Non Tax Base Revenue Resources
- ☐ Stabilize the Cost of Employee Benefits
- ☐ Invest in the County Infrastructure

Total Budget Amount: \$27,629,657

- ☐ Fund 10 / General Fund \$10,739,809
- ☐ Fund 22 / Deeds 450,000
- ☐ Fund 24 / Grants 445,716
- ☐ Fund 30 / Intra Governmental 1,544,050
- ☐ Fund 40 / SCHC 13,779,582
- ☐ Fund 42 / Capital 670,500
- ☐ Total \$27,629,657

Budget Highlights

- ☐ 3% Increase in Wages
- ☐ 18% Increase in Medical Costs
- ☐ 25% Increase in Workmen's Compensation Costs
- ☐ 34% Increase in Retirement Costs

New Grant Resources

- ☐ Avian Flu Grant \$60,000
- ☐ Emergency Management Grant \$75,000
- ☐ Strategic Prevention Framework Grant \$464,504

Increase in Medical Benefits

- ☐ Sullivan County is "Self-Insured"
- ☐ Our Increases Are Attributable to Greater Use of Emergency Room and Prescription Costs

- ☐ We Have Implemented a "Wellness Program"
- ☐ We Began an Optional "High Deductible/Health Savings Program"

Workmen's Compensation

- ☐ Management Continues: to Build and Maintain a Positive Risk Management Culture
- ☐ To Provide Staff Training and Education
- ☐ To Work with Our Provider
- ☐ To Foster and Promote Communication

Regional Leadership

- ☐ Sullivan County is in a Pilot Program for Regional Emergency Management
- ☐ Sullivan County is a Leader in Regional Health Hazard Management
- ☐ Is Currently Studying Regional Recycling
- ☐ Provides Leadership in Regional Substance Abuse Programs

To Be Raised From Taxes \$10,594,871

<input type="checkbox"/> Human Service	\$4,363,875	41%
<input type="checkbox"/> DOC	\$2,881,479	27%
<input type="checkbox"/> Capital	\$670,500	6%
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Services	\$2,679,017	26%
<input type="checkbox"/> SCHA	\$0	0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Bond Debt	\$0	0%
<input type="checkbox"/> Total	\$10,594,871	100%

SCHC Fund Balances

	Fund 40 Revenue Actual	Fund 40 Expenses Actual	Surplus (Deficit)
1997 \$	8,659,663.00	\$ 8,887,046.00	\$ (227,383.00)
1998 \$	8,203,691.00	\$ 8,653,037.00	\$ (449,346.00)
1999 \$	8,520,644.00	\$ 8,502,268.00	\$ 18,376.00
2000 \$	7,444,310.99	\$ 9,025,126.10	\$ (1,580,815.11)
2001 \$	7,879,853.00	\$ 9,431,899.30	\$ (1,552,046.30)
2002 \$	7,909,977.66	\$ 9,616,007.33	\$ (1,706,029.67)
2003 \$	7,855,143.25	\$ 9,581,688.20	\$ (1,726,544.95)
2004 \$	11,675,323.79	\$ 10,735,677.10	\$ 939,646.69
2005 \$	12,093,079.72	\$ 12,313,217.70	\$ (220,137.98)
2006 \$	12,023,676.43	\$ 11,984,692.18	\$ 38,984.25

Fiscal Trends

	FY '03	FY '04	FY '05	FY '06	FY '07	FY'08
Total Salaries	\$9,398,656	\$10,095,398	\$10,706,706	\$11,779,667	\$8,755,299 \$12,299,016	\$14,149,221
Retirement Costs	\$282,316	\$440,792	\$471,261	\$605,672	\$574,155	\$827,371
Health Care & Dental Costs	\$822,744	\$1,502,817	\$1,724,809	\$2,085,321	\$2,506,320	\$3,100,287
Total Costs of Capital (Fund 42)	\$874,954	\$220,000	\$83,082	\$1,254,445	\$972,750	\$670,500
Costs of DOC (Fund 10)	\$2,061,271	\$2,220,141	\$2,291,842	\$2,547,472	\$2,617,708	\$2,881,479
Costs of Human Services (Fund 10)	\$4,272,830	\$4,338,207	\$4,414,701	\$4,324,263	\$4,411,268	\$4,363,875
Property Taxes	\$9,840,870	\$9,336,760	\$9,433,119	\$9,433,119	\$9,283,721	\$10,594,871

Total amount of Budgets	\$19,613,985	\$21,174,490	\$21,207,928	\$24,210,025	\$25,998,660	\$27,629,657
-------------------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------

Bar graphs of the above were illustrated in the PowerPoint

In Summary

- ☐ 3% Increase in Wages
- ☐ 18% Increase in Medical Costs
- ☐ 25% Increase in Workmen's Compensation Costs
- ☐ 34% Increase in Retirement Costs

Public Announcement was made for the **County Convention: FY 08 Proposed Budget** to be held **Friday, June 29, 2007, 9 AM**, Newport at the Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center, Lou Thompson Room.

The floor was opened for questions from Delegates:

- Q. Rep. Nielsen noted she sat on the House of Criminal Justice Safety Committee. She discussed the high cost of incarceration and social costs of recidivism, and asked what the County plans to do for programs other than incarceration?
- A. Commissioner Nelson noted the following programs are in place: Sullivan Academy, Community Alliance Court Diversion, SCIP, electronic monitoring, and recently, a grant application was submitted by Kevin Warwick to assess the juvenile issues.
- Q. Rep. Skinder noted the total salary was over 14 million for nursing, and asked what portion of that was for contract agency nursing?
- A. Commissioner Jarvis noted the contract nursing is shown in the On Call lines. Commissioner Nelson added, they are "growing their own" with current staff. Commissioner Barrette added the Board would be developing strategies with staff development and staffing per shifts.
- Q. Rep. Skinder noted Commissioners indicate higher health care cost in part is attributable from an increase in Emergency Room usage; and, asked if they had considered an in-house nurse to handle the smaller employee health problems. She also asked if they would be increasing deductibles.
- A. Mr. Gil de Rubio noted trips, slips and falls are their main problem. He indicated NH Primex is and will continue to come into the facility to provide training/education. He indicated, they need to change the culture, beginning from leadership level on down, this being his main goal. Commissioner Nelson encouraged all Delegates to schedule an appointment with SCHC administration to view the improvements in the facility bathrooms and other areas.
- Q. Rep. Rodeschin noted they have a 3% increase in wages and inquired if this was included in the Union contract?
- A. Commissioner Barrette confirmed it was across the board, that there were some "out of whack" with their responsibilities, and Union negotiations are ongoing.

- Q. Rep. Rodeschin inquired if the \$464,504 Strategic Framework grants funds came from the State or Federal government?
- A. Mr. Gil de Rubio confirmed this was federal money distributed through NH State.
- Q. Rep. Gagnon asked for clarification on Commissioner Jarvis's first statement regarding distribution of the \$240,000.
- A. Commissioner Barrette confirmed \$200,000 would be applied to staff development and staffing levels per shifts. Commissioner Nelson noted their main concern is LNA training. Commissioner Barrette added that translates into better patient care.
- Q. Rep. Houde inquired about the FY 08 Salary amount of \$8,755,200, and if that was the amount corrected on the extra hand out?
- A. Mr. Gil de Rubio confirmed it was, that it should reflect 12.2 million.
- Q. Rep. Phinizy noticed the salary for the Victim Witness program was \$46,000, but the budget "notes" do not indicate the previous salary or the amount it changed by.
- A. Commissioner Jarvis noted Ms. Vezina, the Victim Witness Coordinator, brought to their budget meeting statewide salary comparables, which they used to approve an approximate \$5,000 wage increase.
- Q. Rep. Phinizy observed the Sheriff's Office PT/FT wage increase was 3%, yet County Attorney's Office increases included a 5% rate, and inquired why not 3% across the board.
- A. Commissioner Barrette noted a handful received 5% wage increases workload increase and during budget reviews considered the cost of hiring a new person with benefits vs. increasing the wage rate on a current employee.
- Q. Rep. Phinizy asked what the effect was on the 3% increase.
- A. Mr. Gil de Rubio discussed the approximate cost of salary and benefits. Commissioner Barrette noted he could provide details of those who would receive 5% increases.
- Q. Rep. Franklin asked, "is there an authorized number of employees in the County? And, if so, has it increased or decreased?"
- A. Commissioner Barrette noted the budgeted number increased. He indicated, for example, inmate labor was used in the Dietary Department and in FY 07 was entered differently than in FY 08. He feels the controls are not in place, to control it in the manner Rep. Franklin would like to see.
- Q. Rep. Rodeschin asked if there are state requirements for staffing levels at the DOC?

- A. Commissioner Barrette confirmed there are no State statutes for DOC on staffing standards. Commissioner Nelson noted staffing levels at the nursing home are based on acuity levels.
- Q. Mr. Don Clarke indicated he noticed the spreadsheet Total Salary wage line shows an increase of 13%, not 3%, and questioned if this represented new positions due to the Genesis contract being cut?
- A. Commissioner Barrette noted there has been no shift in monies from the contract line to salary. Commissioner Nelson pointed out the Total Salary line includes benefits and should be labeled Salary and Benefits.
- Q. Rep. Skinder questioned whom the substance abuse program grants were for?
- A. Commissioner Barrette noted this was attained through the [Sullivan County Community] Coalition. Mr. Gil de Rubio indicated the County has been receiving grant funds for approximately four years for various programs, including SCIP (Sullivan County District Court Intervention Program). He noted the county has no employee substance abuse programs, except what is offered through the employees health care program. He added, most of the grant funds are targeted towards juvenile/young adults.
- Q. Mr. Clarke asked to revisit the spreadsheet, he noticed the health care and dental amounts are listed separately further down, so would not assume they would be lumped into the Total Salary line.
- A. Commissioner Barrette noted the Total Salary line did include benefits.
- Q. Rep. Cloutier asked if they anticipated Union negotiations to be over before the annual Convention?
- A. Commissioner Barrette and Mr. Gil de Rubio indicated they did not believe so.
- Q. Rep. Rodeschin indicated she just received an "Emergency Meeting Notice" from Rep. Converse about a meeting of the Board of Commissioners for 6/13/07, 8:20 a.m. at the SCHC. She asked what the meeting was about and why the notice was labeled "Emergency".
- A. Commissioner Nelson noted it was a meeting regarding personnel. Commissioner Barrette confirmed the notice is dictated by protocol.
- Q. Representative Cloutier observed one item that could change the County's budget is the State's budget, which would be voted on 6/27/07. He noted one difference would be a new way of funding for Human Services costs, with a proposal out there for the State to take on the cost of juveniles, while Counties take on the cost of senior care. He asked if the Board had any thoughts on this issue? He encouraged the Board to contact the Delegates to advise if this type of change would impact the County's budget in a negative or positive way.
- A. Commissioner Jarvis indicated she had been following the issue in the Concord Monitor and had seen several e-mails on the issue and would come to a conclusion. Mr. Gil de Rubio is concerned about the recent spreadsheet the State

circulated that contains numbers for Sullivan County he is unsure where they come from. He recommends Delegates consult with the Commissioners and him when receiving data from the State, for their observations on numbers. He further added, he is unsure how the State would divide the youth and senior cost fairly. Representative Ferland commented that if the State does not step up to fund the juvenile programs the County's invoice will continue to increase.

There were no further public comments or questions.

8:15 The public hearing was adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Johnson-Callum*

Date approved: _____

Signature of current Clerk: _____

